Autocracies, Oligarchies & Democracies, Oh My!

Guest: Seth Masket, Director of Center on American Politics, University of Denver

1. Name a country that is an example of an autocracy.

2. Masket states that words that end in “–ism” often are an ideology or philosophy. However, what do words that end in “–ocracy” usually refer to?

3. Circle any words that could NOT be used to describe the United States:

   - Constitutional Monarchy
   - Democratic Republic
   - Totalitarian Regime
   - Federation
   - Representational Democracy
   - Constitutional Democracy
   - Confederation

4. For discussion: in the United States we elect representatives to make our laws and enact policy. Would you consider moving away from that model towards more “direct democracy,” where citizens get to write and vote on all the laws? What would be the pros and cons of such a system?